

THE COMMONWEALTH

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Attempt on Life of The German Emperor Last Night

WRECK OF TRAIN OF FRENCH MISSION

Thought to be Work of German Plotters in Spreading Rails

ILLUSTROUS GUESTS UNINJURED

By Special Correspondent Martin (Traveling on special train) Effingham, Ill., With The French Commission, May 8.—The wreck last night of the special train carrying the members of the French mission to the west, which occurred at 7:30 o'clock near to Arcolia, Illinois, which at first accounts was considered as accidental, is now thought to be of a more serious nature. Investigation disclosed a broken rail twenty feet behind the rear of the wrecked train. This might have been broken by the heavy engines, or by plotters. The investigators are reticent in making their report public. Some of the members of the commission are inclined to the belief that German plotters had spread the rails. At the time of the accident former president of the French, Rene Viviani, Marshal Joffre and other attaches of the party were in the diner, and sustained only a slight shock. The party is now traveling on another special train and has resumed its tour of the middle west.

NEWS FROM STATE CAPITOL

Raleigh, May 8.—There has occurred very recently in Raleigh an instance which showed how Uncle Sam's espionage system works. A certain German not a naturalized citizen but for many years resident here and working at his profession, filled an order for a customer (or was in the act of doing so) for certain drawings or "blue prints." The transaction was regarded with suspicion it seems, and two agents of the U. S. Government suddenly appeared on the scene. What developed is not given out for publication of course. The impression is that the German was not guilty of knowingly committing or intending to commit a crime. But he was certainly a very anxious individual when he learned (as he did later) that he had been the subject of investigation by U. S. secret service agents when I saw him he was trying to locate them for the purpose of explanation, but by that time they had finished up their work in his case and moved on to other fields of endeavor "somewhere in the U. S. A." Although North Carolina has the smallest per centage of foreign born residents of any State in the Union there are quite a number of people here who were either born in Germany or their

VAWTER TRIAL NEARS END

(BY UNITED PRESS) Christianburg, Va., May 8.—The burden of proof in the Vawter trial that the defendant did not fire in self defence is placed upon the State. The instructions to the jury specifically stated that if the jury believes that letter by the defendant to the murdered man in which he said "pay my bill and take my wife" that such a letter must be considered as written by a man of unsound mind. The burden of the proof is placed on the defence to show that Vawter was insane or intoxicated at the time he wrote the letter to Heth, and that he did not know what he was doing. It is expected that the case will go to the jury by noon tomorrow. Though the Commonwealth attorney made a powerful plea it is the general opinion that the jury will be out only a short time and then the verdict will be not guilty. Jordan Hatless will follow the argument for the defence this afternoon. Attorney Roop in his argument painted Vawter as a blackmailer and stated that he was willing to exchange his wife's charms to swell his own pocket.

RED CROSS ORGANIZED

A local branch of the National Red Cross Association was organized in Scotland Neck on Saturday last, and the following were elected. Mrs. Haywood Hyman, president; Miss Reba Shields, vice-president, Mrs. C. W. Albertson, secretary Miss Laura Clark, treasurer. Plans were made to begin the war relief work at once. A first aid class was also organized with Mrs. A. D. Morgan, as President, and Miss Bessie Dunn, Secretary. The ladies who are heading this most worthy organization are active leaders in all beneficial work for the town and it may be expected that some really valuable result will ensue.

Election Day as Dismal as Weather

Today is town election day, and if the local people expected any sensation, or excitement, they must have been woefully disappointed, for as one of the politicians of this district stated this morning "it was fairly disappointing." Amid a drizzling rain the poll holders, Messrs. G. Lamb, L. M. Pittman, on either side of the registrar, Mr. Shields Alexander, opened up the empty store of Joe Harrison, at eight o'clock and dismally awaited the rush of business, which never came, for at 1 o'clock only seventy votes had been cast out of a possible 289. There was a likelihood of a double for office yesterday when a second ticket was announced, but this fizzled out when one of the nominees gracefully declined to allow his name to enter the contest, so as one of the opposition said truly "what's the use, you can't vote for just three of them." Seriously there was not enough interest taken in the election for the east side people to quit their work at the mill to cast their vote and this made the vote so small. At the time of going to press the vote stood as follows:
For the regular ticket 96
Other ticket 5
Total votes cast 95

ANOTHER WAR LOAN TO FRANCE

(BY UNITED PRESS) Washington, May 8.—The government voted a hundred million loan to France today, in addition to that already delivered to that country.

parents were born there. Most of these are respected citizens and largely business men of affairs. It is a rare thing to see or hear any manifestation of ill will against these people personally. But that is because of the general belief in the loyalty to the country of their adoption. If they should "start something" to the contrary, there is no part of the American Union where it would be more quickly and effaciously repressed and punished.

THREE SHOTS FIRED AT KAISER'S GAR

Narrow Escape--Two Bullets Striking Toneau ---Man Arrested

POLICE CONTINUE THE RETICENT

SUPERIOR COURT JUNE THE 4TH

(BY UNITED PRESS) Rome, May 8.—The Kaiser had a narrow escape from an assassin's bullet while motoring to Berlin a Zurich dispatch to Corriere D'Italia asserted. An unidentified man fired three shots at the Kaisers car, two of the bullets striking the tonneau. The man was arrested. The dispatch stated that the police were silent. Yesterday being the first Monday in the month, the County Commissioners met at the court house, Halifax and transacted general business, besides drawing the jury for the two weeks term of criminal and civil court, commencing the first Monday in June being June 4th. The first four days of the June court will be devoted to the trial of the criminal docket, which will be followed on Friday June 8th, by the civil docket, which will be published in The Commonwealth a week before the court convenes. The County Commissioners drew the following jury for the June term:
First week: J. E. Whitehurst, James Bunting, Ivey Crawley, A. L. Borrell, J. E. Batchelor, Frank Moore, Walter Manning, Whit Morris, J. H. Sherrod, W. E. Bishop, E. V. Mitchell, J. H. Johnson, R. H. Hawkins, E. E. Powell, J. W. Hall, B. Y. Harris, J. C. Cushman, W. W. Wood, J. B. Dickens, P. E. Sears, A. V. White, L. L. P. E. Sears, A. B. White, L. L. ell, E. W. Lehman, Jinks Billops, R. R. Hawkins, W. T. Baker, L. G. Shell, H. L. Bland, Robert Wood, J. B. Gray, W. D. Burnett, J. J. Pittman, L. A. Hudson and R. P. Byrd.
Second week: W. T. Smith, J. C. Daniel, A. T. White, J. F. Weatherbee, D. C. Fenner, T. C. Cooley, W. H. Holland, Rufus Cherry, O. M. Nichols, Louis Harris, C. F. Cowan, C. H. Speight, Curtis

KILLED BY TRUCK YESTERDAY

A regrettable accident which culminated in the death of a colored boy, Claud Randolph, son of Sylvester Randolph, took place yesterday afternoon at three o'clock, when the Pepsi Cola wagon from Tarboro, driven by Mr. Randolph, ran over the body of the little colored fellow, and from which he died at about nine o'clock last night. It has been the habit of the boys to clamber upon the motor truck, to get a ride, and yesterday several of them, Claud among the number did the same thing. The driver stopped and made them get off. As the heavy truck started up again, just outside the colored picture show house, Claud Randolph made a running jump, missed his hold and fell under the wheel of the 6,000 pound truck. He was badly mangled and taken to his home lived only a few hours. Hardy, W. H. Moore, F. V. Station, W. T. Shaw, W. D. Bass and J. M. Browning.

GERMANY WILL PAY PRICE ON "PEACE SPIES"

(BY UNITED PRESS) By Arthur Mann (United Press Staff Correspondent) Copenhagen, May 8.—The German government stated the peace talk for its own ends is assured, but now it is confronted with a distinct and decidedly growing movement among its people for peace which it is taking measures to repress. Private advices from Germany showed this new development. A detailed empire wide hunt for "peace spies" is on, and the hunt is transferred from the civil authorities to the military with offers for the arrest of peace propagandists. The German movement seems determined to rule that if there is to be any peace talk it must be the government to do the talking and not the people. Indications are that there is a widespread movement for carrying the peace move to the German

people, and against this is the repressive measures by the government. Meanwhile the people of the German provinces are puzzled. The people have been fed with the idea that England is nearly broken, but against this they are distinctly puzzled that she is still making war and will not hearken to the peace feelers. The result of all this is a formidable wave of dissatisfaction against German autocracy within Germany. Amsterdam, May 8.—Chancellor Bethmann-Holwegg's postponed and much advertised peace address in anticipation of events soon which will facilitate the task is the explanation printed in Berlin Lokanzieger, and reports "rumors are agreeable political events are eminent, which it is hoped will not miscarry."

FIRST U.S. VOLUNTEES FOR FRENCH SOIL

3 Thousand Engineers Enlist for Immediate Service Abroad

CONFER WITH COL. ROOSEVELT

(BY UNITED PRESS) New York, May 8.—Three thousand engineers who enlisted in the reserve division today, offered their services to the government as part of the first units of Americans to go to the French front. T. C. Desmond, who organized the engineers, made the offer to Secretary of war Baker after conference with Roosevelt who later urged that the shortest was to get men to France even though to take men from the volunteer division.

ENGLISH AREOPLANE BATTLE WITH BALOON

(BY UNITED PRESS) With the British Armies Afild, May 8.—Seven British aeroplanes today shot down seven German balloons in resumption of the vigorous aerial offensive by the British flyers. Fighting continues violently around Bullecourt. At the time this dispatch is be-

ing sent the Germans are vigorously assaulting that portion of the Hindenburg line held by the British on the southwest border of the village, and have so far been fruitless. Enemy gained a little ground northeast of Fresnoy last night but failed to oust the British.

LANSING WANTS DICTATORSHIP

Washington, May 8.—Secretary Lansing announced that he would dismiss any employee of the state department who gives out to the press any information upon which criticism of the government's policies may arise. In this way the secretary has made himself absolute dictator of

news, and its relations to this country as well as all foreign nations.

COTTON MARKET				
	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
May	19.50	19.56	19.50	19.55
July	19.45	19.76	19.42	19.56
Oct.	18.59	18.77	18.51	18.77
Dec.	18.66	18.84	18.58	18.84
Jan.	18.71	18.86	18.62	18.86
Local Market 18 1-4				